

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 XMB-02 TRSE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
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-----059772 110255Z /72
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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835

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DEPT PASS ALL EA POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN
SUBJ: APCAC MEETING IN SINGAPORE

REF: A) STATE 58059 (NOTAL) B) SINGAPORE 1094

1. APCAC HELD SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 24-27 ATTENDED BY SOME 75 AMCHAM REPS AND THEIR WIVES FROM OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS LARGE SINGAPORE CONTINGENT. APCAC MEETINGS WERE ATTENDED BY DAS HEGINBOTHAM, AND COMMERCE DAS MORAN AS WELL AS OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCY REPS AND ECONOMIC COUNSELORS FROM SEVERAL EA EMBASSIES. APCAC MEETINGS WERE FOLLOWED BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC COUNSELORS' MEETINGS WHICH INCLUDED JOINT SESSION WITH APCAC REPS.

2. FIRST PLENARY SESSION WAS OPENED BY AMBASSADOR, WHO SET TONE FOR MEETINGS BY STRESSING NEED AND OPPORTUNITY FOR USG AND US BUSINESS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER TO THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT DESPITE INEVITABLE DIFFERENCES. DAS MORAN ALSO ADDRESSED SESSION, DESCRIBING USG PRO-
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GRAMS TO ASSIST BUSINESSMEN AND NOTING ADDITIONAL IMPETUS GIVEN TO THESE PROGRAMS BY SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT, AS STATED IN HIS RECENT LETTER TO AMBASSADORS, AND BY MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH TO EXPORT FINANCING BY EXIM BANK. DAS HEGINBOTHAM SPOKE AT LATER SESSION WHERE HE WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL REGARDING US POLICY TOWARD ASIA, PARTICULARLY TOWARD JAPAN AND ASEAN, AND

INFORMED APCAC OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS TAX DEFERRAL AND SECTION 911. THESE STATEMENTS BY USG REPS AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ENSUING SESSIONS WERE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN KEEPING USG-APCAC DIALOGUE ON CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS AND AVOIDING ACRIMONY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED SOME PAST APCAC CONFERENCES.

3. COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN STAVING OFF PROPOSED APCAC RESOLUTION CALLING UPON USG TO LIFT BAN ON TRADE WITH VIETNAM. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE, INCLUDING EXPLANATION OF USG POSITION BY DAS HEGINBOTHAM, APCAC DECIDED ON UNPUBLICIZED LETTER REQUESTING USG CONSIDERATION OF US BUSINESS' INTEREST IN TRADE RATHER THAN PUBLIC RESOLUTION.

4. ONE HIGH POINT OF CONFERENCE WAS WELL-ATTENDED ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, WHO MADE PITCH FOR USG SUPPORT FOR US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ASIA AS "ECONOMIC FRONT LINE" IN ACHIEVING US OBJECTIVES IN AREA. LEE ABBREVIATED HIS PREPARED REMARKS (I WON'T BORE YOU WITH THE REST OF THIS; YOU CAN READ IT IN THE PRESS TOMORROW") TO ANSWER WITH SKILL AND GOOD HUMOR QUESTIONS ON SUBJECTS RANGING FROM SITUATION IN INDOCHINA TO HOW US BUSINESS SHOULD ORGANIZE TO MEET JAPANESE COMPETITION. HE WAS GIVEN ROUSING OVATION AT CONCLUSION.

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5. MOST TANGIBLE RESULT OF CONFERENCE WAS SET OF APCAC RESOLUTIONS, TO BE DEVELOPED INTO ACTION PROGRAMS:

--ASEAN. RESOLUTION ENCOURAGES MORE STRUCTURED APPROACH BY USG, SUPPORTS FORMATION OF ASEAN-US BUSINESS COUNCIL.

--PROTECTIONISM. DEPLORES TREND IN ANY FORM, URGES PRESSURE ON US LEGISLATORS AND LABOR LEADERS.

--TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. URGES NO BARS EXCEPT ON NATIONAL SECURITY GROUNDS; CALLS FOR RESISTANCE TO MOVE TO WEAKEN PATENT, COPYRIGHT LAWS.

--CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. ENCOURAGES PROMULGATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF OECD INVESTMENT PACKAGE; DEPLORES PROLIFERATION OF OTHER CODES, WHICH DETRACT FROM UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF OECD GUIDELINES.

--TAX DEFERRAL. SUPPORTS PRESENT LAW, OPPOSES PROPOSED CHANGES.

--EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY. URGES CAUTION IN IMPOSITION OF U.S. STANDARDS ABROAD.

--SECURITY. URGES CONTINUED STRONG U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

--SECTION 911. CALLS FOR FURTHER DEFERRAL OF NEW
LAW UNTIL QUESTION CAN BE PROPERLY CONSIDERED.
--DISC. URGES CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF
PROGRAM.
--OVERSEAS VOTING RIGHTS. CALLS ON HOUSE TO RECTIFY
INJUSTICES DONE IN 1975 ACT.
--EXPANDING U.S. EXPORTS. CALLS FOR STRONGER EXIM
BANK ROLE, EXPANDED U.S. TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL
MARKETING CENTERS, SUPPORTIVE TAX LAWS AND REGU-
LATIONS.
--DITI. SUPPORTS ROTH-RIBICOFF BILL FOR CREATION
OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVEST-
MENT.

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6. JOINT APCAC-E/C OFFICERS SESSION WENT VERY WELL,
WITH EMPHASIS ON AREAS OF COOPERATION. THE U.S. BUSINESS-
MEN APPEARED APPRECIATIVE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND
EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND LEFT
THE MEETING WITH A REAL SENSE OF BEING IN DIRECT COM-
MUNICATION WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT. THE PRESENCE OF DAS
HEGINBOTHAM AND DAS MORAN OF COMMERCE ADDED GREATLY TO
THE JOINT SESSION, AND THEIR PRESENCE AT APCAC SOCIAL
EVENTS GAVE APCAC MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH
THEM IN RELAXED SURROUNDINGS.

7. THE ONLY CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO COME OUT OF THE JOINT SESSION
CONCERNED ASEAN. FIRST SUGGESTED LIBERALIZATION OF GSP RULES OF
ORIGIN TO
ALLOW GSP TREATMENT TO ASEAN AS A GROUP IN CASES WHERE
A PRODUCT IS PROCESSED IN MORE THAN ONE ASEAN COUNTRY.
THE SECOND PROPOSAL WAS FOR APCAC COMPANIES TO ARRANGE
MEETINGS BETWEEN THEIR HEAD OFFICERS AND ASEAN REPRE-
SENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON.
HOLDRIDGE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL EA POSTS.

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NNN

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